



VOLUME 16 | ISSUE 8 | AUGUST 2019



The pretty landscape and the patriotic decorations made 17714 Feathers Landing Drive a perfect choice for the July Yard of the Month.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

IN CASE OF ANY EMERGENCY DIAL 911

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Willow Creek Elem (K-4).....281-357-3080
Northpointe Int (5-6).....281-357-3020
Willow Wood Jr (7-8)281-357-3030
Tomball High (9-12).....281-357-3220
Tomball Memorial High School.....281-357-3230
Transportation.....281-357-3193

SERVICES

Village Creek ManagementPam Hummel
Email.....pam.hummel@crest-management.com
Phone.....281-945-4618, Site Mgr.
Website.....www.Crest-Management.com

Village Creek Board Website.....myvillagecreek.com
Village Creek WebsiteUnrelated to the Board
.....VillageCreekCommunity.com

Harris County Animal Control281-999-3191
Lost/Found PetsNextdoor.com
Harris County Veterinary Public Health.....281-999-3191
Municipal District Services (24 hrs)281-290-6503
... For water leaks, water outages, water quality, or sewer
leaks or stoppage. Street lights out & power outages.....
..... www.centerpointenergy.com/outage
Harris County traffic signal outages.....713-881-3210
Best Trash.....281-313-2378
customerservice@besttrash.com, and www.best-trash.com

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811 or use <http://www.lonestar811.com/>

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Do you want to contact the Board?

The Board's new website at villagecreek.us is quite amazing. Did you know that you can go there, click on CONTACT, and send all of the Board members a message within a minute? Another option is to send both the Board members and the Management Company a message. Either way, it is fast and effective.

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." -Aesop

Social Committee

By Lisa Rawles, Chair

The Village Creek HOA sponsors five Social Committee family events each year with a budget of \$10,800.

Led by the Easter Bunny as Grand Marshal, the Easter Parade starts the "Parade Celebration." When the procession arrives at the pool house, four different egg hunts are waiting for the children (depending on their age). Lisa fills over three thousand stuffed plastic eggs by herself. Additionally, there are rides and games for everyone.

In late May, "The Pool Grand Opening Party" takes place. Highlighted by the season's first swim in our beautiful pool, a Disc Jockey provides lively music while residents enjoy a lunch of pizza, chips, cookies, and drinks. There are usually about ten games with prizes for the kids. Each child receives a gift bag with delightful novelties.

"The 4th of July Celebration" begins with a parade where children, often assisted by their parents, have decorated their bicycles, tricycles, and wagons in a patriotic theme. Judging takes place, and the winner in each category wins a gift card. While enjoying pizza, chips, cookies, and drinks, a DJ entertains with music. Pool games with prizes take place, and there are novelty handouts for everyone.

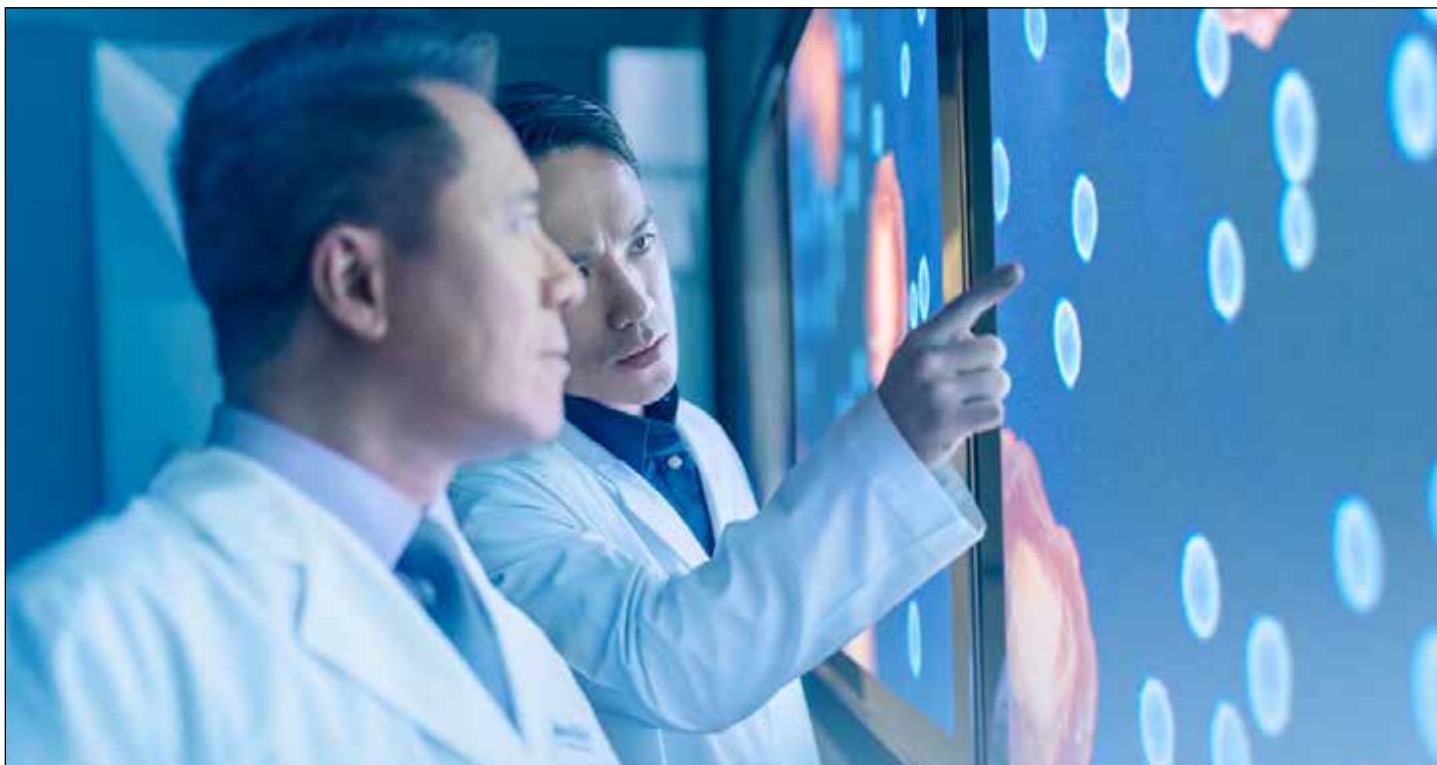
Children that are starting Kindergarten can meet their new principal and a few teachers at the "Back to School Kinder Meet and Greet" located at the Splash Pad. The Committee provides crafty school supplies that can be decorated and personalized along with snacks and drinks. A Party with a "Luau" theme is next with the DJ, pizza, snacks, and beverages. Pool games with prizes and novelty handouts for everyone add to the fun.

In early December, "Christmas Cookies with Santa" adds to the excitement of the Season. Children (and adults) can visit with Santa and take pictures while enjoying Christmas music playing in the background. Mrs. Claus is always there handing out candy while assisting Santa. Cookies, hot chocolate, cold chocolate milk, & white milk add to the festivities. Each year about 250 gift bags full of books, toys, and candy are given to the children.

Lisa appreciates all the volunteer residents who step up to help out with these beautiful events, but her favorite volunteer is her husband, Jimmy, who is always by her side.

Of course, none of this can happen without the Board's and Community's generous support.



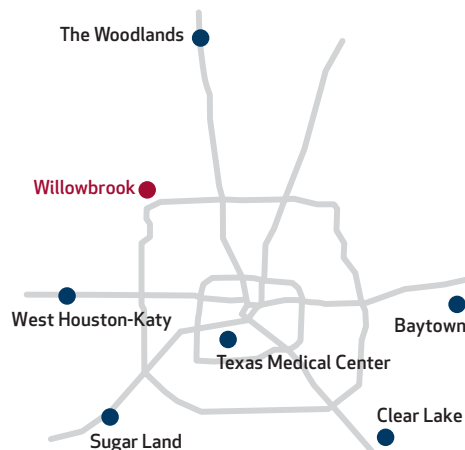


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The Voice

Stacy Cheeseman Pool Committee Volunteer

Stacy Cheeseman has been an exceptional volunteer on the Village Creek Pool Committee for several years. You will often see her at the pool cleaning the deck with a hose, arranging chairs, and watching over the operation. She reports that Aquatic Management is doing a great job this year. If you have used the new chairs and enjoyed the shade from the new blue umbrellas, you can thank Stacy for suggesting these to the Board. Stacy was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska. She notices a slight difference in the weather here. She and her family have lived in Village Creek since 2010. You will often see her running (yes, running) around the lake with her family. Stacy and her husband, John, have been married for 12 years and have four children. All of their school aged children have been homeschooled by Stacy. She is in training for her first marathon in January, 2020.



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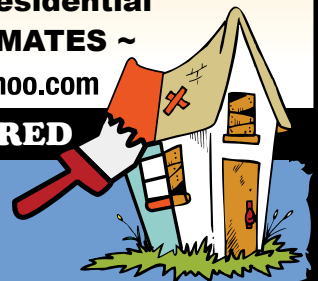
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Pool Committee

Gordon Watson, Chair and Stacy Cheeseman, Member

Aquatic Management is our new management company this year. Their bid was the lowest and very similar to the last contractor. We are pleased that their focus is on safety with several changes made in that regard. We have been more than satisfied with their prowess. Our only significant failure this year was the ten-year-old (or so) computer at the splash pad. Fortunately, with Steven Winter's and a contractor's help, we got through that episode with only a few minor glitches and no significant downtime. During that failure we learned how to operate the splash pad in manual (a nuance the kiddies seemed not to notice).

Aquatic Management made a few pump repairs, and these were transparent to the swimmers. We have confirmed the splash pad can operate on only one pump.

We have a few ideas for the future including moving the shower out where it will be more useable and perhaps adding a new splash pad water feature to replace the water cannons which were removed several years ago for safety reasons. Additionally, we would like to move the chemicals out of the machinery room where they tend to destroy everything made of metal. Finally, there are a few control issues which we plan to present to the Board.

Landscape Committee

Sherry Watson Chair, Members: Kristin Jonec and Laura Domangue

The improvements at the Scarlet Forest Drive Reserve area have been completed. The relocation of the Iris plants and Day Lilies and the installation of Lucky Lantanas and sod have made this a lovely space for all residents in that area to enjoy.

Requests for estimates to plant five Bald Cypress trees near the lake bridge have gone out.

Residents have suggested to the Committee members that more shade trees near the sidewalk around the lake would be a welcome addition. Board approval and requests for estimates to add five trees around the lake will be made. We hope to add trees as funding permits continuously.

The Committee Members will continue to examine and update the improvements recorded in the Landscape Master Plan. The Committee's goal is to always work toward "keeping Village Creek beautiful."

Architectural Review Committee

Steven Winter, Chair; Anonymous, Joe Wright, and John Mudd

Fence replacement is the #1 item requested this year and the most frequent question coming in on the Village Creek web site, so here are some tips for filling out your Exterior Modification Requests (also known as ARC requests).

The Board of Directors has approved a standing variance allowing the installation of a 6" rot board mounted horizontally at the bottom of new fences. This raises the allowable height to 6'6" or 6'8" with a 2" cap on public-facing fences (those facing the street). Also due to a recent rash of orange fences, the Board has approved a standing variance allowing Olympic Natural Cedar Tone and Clear in addition to the standard Behr Premium Cedar and Clear.

In filing your request, you will need to go to the Crest Management website. Here is a link to the EMR section

<https://www.crest-management.com/Pages/EMRForm.aspx>

You will need to submit the following documents with your request:

1. You must attach the Plat drawing of your property with the sections of fence to be replaced clearly marked. Be sure to show the location of all gates.

2. Please include your contractor's bill of material and project description with the request. You may redact any costs or personal information if you prefer, this will help the committee to determine if the finished fence will be in compliance.

3. If you wish to change any sections of the original fence, such as making it longer, shorter or in a different place from the current structure, be sure to explain the changes fully.

4. If you don't include "stain" in your request, you will need to file a new application when you wish to stain the fence.

The Village Creek Deed Restrictions, Architectural Guidelines, and Architectural Policy documents are the governing documents for fences in our community. These can be obtained on the Crest Management website in the Village Creek community section.

We realize this new system is a change in the way things used to be done and some residents may have problems using a totally online system. If you have an issue or need help with your request, please feel free to contact me directly. I will be more than happy to assist you in this process.

Steven Winter (713) 724-6576



The Voice

Meet the Board

Greg Davis, currently serving as the Vice President of the Village Creek Board, moved to Village Creek in 2015. Before that he had a ten-year stay in Washington State. The family chose Village Creek due in part to its proximity to the local computer company where Greg has worked for over 25 years and is currently a senior manager of an R&D group.

Born and raised in Tennessee, Greg and his family moved to Houston in 1979 to pursue his career. He and his wife Carolyn share their home with a rescued dog named Eddie. Among their favorite amenities in our community are the walking paths, where you will often find them walking Eddie.

Village Creek elected Greg to the board in 2017, and he is very conscientious about attending board meetings. Though he has been involved in the computer industry his entire career, Greg has no interest in social media and prefers engaging with people more directly. During his career, he had extensive training in public speaking and enjoys addressing groups, both large and small. Board Member Greg generally supports proposals intended to improve the community and is less concerned with the initial cost of the projects and more concerned with the value they add to our neighborhood and our homes. He favors adding improving the walking trail around the lake and resolving the standing water issues in the overgrown community forest areas.

The Minimalist Gardener

By Flint Sage

Trees: Mature trees and bushes will need an inch of water every one to two weeks to stay alive. If your trees are in lawns, you will need to add a bit more water, as they are competing with the lawn for moisture. Younger trees will need even more water to keep their roots in moist soil. Do a slow soaking a few feet from the trunk to a foot or two beyond the canopy (outermost leaves). Summer is not a good month to plant trees or bushes unless you are willing to water them daily. Hint: Never buy a plant in the summer and let it sit in the sun outside. It will surely die of thirst.

Lawns: Arrange to keep the mower clippings on the lawn. They act as fertilizer and add organics to our concrete-like clay soil. Maybe someday, earthworms will be attracted to our yards.

Vegetables: August is the time to plant southern peas, okra, and peppers. In general, though, it is the worst month to plant most things. It is too hot!

Fall Color: If you want fall color, this is the time to plant marigolds and petunias. If using seeds, start them in a shady part of the yard. They will need daily water.

Mulch: Mulch keeps water in, keeps the heat out, and significantly reduces the need for weeding. Keep mulch six inches or so away from the tree and bush trunks. Lay down a minimum of three thicknesses of newspapers under the mulch. Wet the papers to keep them from blowing away before mulching.

Roses: Expect roses to look quite bad by late summer. In August, cut back between $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ of the bush. Fertilize each rose with $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of ammonium sulfate in mid-August. Distribute the fertilizer around the drip line. If no blooms appear in the first week of September, add a second application. Water thoroughly after pruning and fertilizing.

2019 was a great year for tomatoes, but don't expect them to last into July and August. They like heat but not as much heat as Tomball gets. In general, the smaller tomatoes do better than the large.

Fruit Trees: According to Texas Gardener Magazine, this is the month to stop fertilizing all fruit trees. I cannot say enough positive things about our Celeste fig tree this year: tasty and abundant figs.



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A graphic for a newsletter sign-up. It features a pair of hands holding a small globe of the Earth, with green leaves sprouting from the top. The text "GO GREEN" is at the top in large, bold, white letters with a black outline. Below the hands, it says "Receive your newsletter in your inbox". At the bottom, it says "For details go to www.PEELinc.com and click the RESIDENTS tab". There is a small circular logo with the letter "P" in the bottom right corner.

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